

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-18, and 20-32 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1, 3, 4, 9, 10, 12, 20, 21 and 26 are amended and claims 2, 19 and 33-54 are canceled. Reconsideration in view of above-outlined amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The specification was amended as outlined above to insert the missing sub-title and the correct the informalities identified in the Office Action. Claims 9 and 12 were amended to address the informalities identified in the Office Action.

I. THE DRAWINGS COMPLY WITH 37 CFR 1.83(A)

The drawings were objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) because the drawings allegedly do not show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. In particular, the drawings allegedly do not show the subject matter of claims 11 and 12. Applicant respectfully traverses this objection.

Claim 11 recites a “connector comprises a ring having at least one ribbed portion and at least one non-ribbed portion.” These claimed features are illustrated in Figs. 19 and 29. The connector 402 includes ribbed portions 404 and non-ribbed portions 406. Claim 12 includes “three ribbed portions.” Fig. 29 clearly illustrates three ribbed portions 404. Claim 11 further recites that “inner half and the outer half both comprise at least one ridged section adapted to engage the at least one ribbed portion of the connector.” These claimed features are described in paragraph [00183] and illustrated in Figs. 19 and 30. Both the inner half and outer half include indentions (408). Claim 12 further includes “three ribbed sections.” Figs. 19 and 30 clearly illustrate three ribbed portions 408.

Applicant respectfully submits that the subject matter of claims 10 and 12 is illustrated in the drawings. Accordingly, the drawings comply with 37 CFR 1.83(a). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection are respectfully requested.

II. THE CLAIMS DEFINE PATENTABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicant appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 2-6 and 19-23.

Claims 1, 8-13, 17, 18, and 24-29 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(a) over US Patent No. 6,149,540 to Johnson et al. (“Johnson”). Claims 14-16 and 30-32 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) over Johnson. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

In response, claims 1 and 18 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 2 and 19, respectively. Claims 1 and 18 are now in condition for allowance. Claims 3-9 depend from claim 1 and are also in condition for allowance. Furthermore, claims 20-32 depend from claim 18 and are also in condition for allowance.

Amended claim 10 is directed to a driven pulley for a continuously variable transmission. The driven pulley includes a shaft adapted for operative connection to an output shaft of the continuously variable transmission. The driven pulley further includes an inner half and an outer half rotatably disposed on the shaft. The inner half having a belt engagement surface associated therewith adapted to engage a first side of a belt. The outer half also having a belt engagement surface associated therewith adapted to engage a second side of the belt. A spring biases the inner half and the outer half together with one another. A connector rotatably couples the inner half with the outer half such that both the inner half and the outer half can transmit torque to the shaft. The connector is disposed between the inner half and the outer half.

Johnson fails to disclose, teach or suggest the subject matter of amended claim 10. The Office Action relies on the roller clutch 66 for allegedly teaching a connector that rotatably couples the inner half of the driven pulley with the outer half of the driven pulley. This interpretation of Johnson is not accurate. Johnson does not disclose the claimed connector whereby both the inner half and the outer half can transmit torque to the shaft. In

fact, Johnson does not disclose any structure that connects the sheaves 52 and 54 together. Instead, Johnson discloses a roller clutch 66 having threads or grooves 69 at one end for securing a stationary sheave 52 to the roller clutch sleeve 67. The clutch positively engages the stationary sheave 52 with the output shaft 14 when the belt 90 drives the stationary sheave 52 in the normal direction. The clutch 66 of Johnson does not engage the sheave 54; it is only through contact with the belt 90 that sheave 54 rotates. Accordingly, the roller clutch 66 does not connect the two halves of the driver pulley such that both the inner half and the outer half can transmit torque to the shaft.

Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that Johnson fails to disclose the subject matter of claim 10. Claims 11-17 depend from claim 10 and are allowable over Johnson for at least the same reasons. Additionally, Johnson does not disclose, teach or suggest the ribbed and ridged portions as set forth in claims 11 and 12. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections based upon Johnson are respectfully requested.

III. CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 3-18 and 20-32 define subject matter that is patentable over the prior art cited of record. It is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Should further issues require resolution prior to allowance, the Examiner is requested to telephone applicant's undersigned attorney at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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